United Nations S/2003/558*

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 June 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 21 May 2003 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Security Council have decided to send a mission to Central Africa from 7 to 16 June 2003, which will be led by Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sablière. The members of the Council have agreed on the terms of reference of the mission, a copy of which is enclosed herewith (see annex).

Following consultations with the members, it has been agreed that the composition of the mission is as follows:

Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sablière (France), head of mission
Ambassador Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins (Angola)
Ambassador Stefan Tafrov (Bulgaria)
Ambassador Martin Chungong Ayafor (Cameroon)
Ambassador Cristián Maquieira (Chile)
Ambassador Zhang Yishan (China)
Minister Michael Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg (Germany)
Minister Counsellor Boubacar Diallo (Guinea)
Minister María Angélica Arce de Jeannet (Mexico)
Ambassador Masood Khalid (Pakistan)
Ambassador Alexander V. Konuzin (Russian Federation)
Ambassador Ana María Menéndez (Spain)
Minister Counsellor Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic)
Ambassador Adam Thomson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Ambassador John D. Negroponte (United States of America)

I should be grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**
President of the Security Council

* Reissued for technical reasons.

03-36746* (E) 030703

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Terms of reference of the Security Council mission to Central Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

In general, the mission will emphasize to all its interlocutors the need to take the peace process forward. On this condition all, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the region, may benefit from the strong support the international community, in particular the Security Council, is ready to provide. The mission will accordingly invite the Congolese parties to work resolutely to implement their commitments in the framework of the inter-Congolese dialogue. It will clearly remind the Congolese parties and the country's neighbours of the Council's expectations and their obligations: complete cessation of hostilities; respect for human rights, humanitarian law and the welfare of the civilian population; economic cooperation and other confidence-building measures; withdrawal of foreign forces; no interference; cessation of support to armed groups; cessation of the plundering of the natural resources; access for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to all parts of the territory. The mission will also press all parties to fully carry out their obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions, including their specific obligations to demilitarize Kisangani, ensure the complete reopening of the Congo River to civilian traffic and provide humanitarian organizations with full access to populations in need.

The mission will stress to the Congolese parties and to the States in the region the value of making progress towards the convening of the proposed international conference on peace, security, democracy and development in the Great Lakes region.

Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The mission might stress:

(a) The need for all Congolese parties to work for the satisfactory functioning of the transitional government, national reconciliation, reunification of the territory and cessation of hostilities;

(b) The desire of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions to enhance the capacity of the future transitional government to ensure legal and transparent exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the benefit of the Congolese people and to put an end to the repeated plundering described by the Panel of Experts;

(c) The priority to be given by the transitional government to the establishment of institutions responsible for security and law and order (army, police and judiciary);

(d) The necessity for the transitional government to support local initiatives for pacification and reconciliation (Ituri, Kivus).

Role of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

On the basis of the Secretary-General's report on adjusting the concept of MONUC, the mission will evaluate:

(a) Requirements for taking forward the indispensable process of the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of the foreign armed groups;

(b) The support of MONUC, in collaboration with bilateral partners, in building Congolese security capacities;

(c) Ways and means for MONUC to assist, in collaboration with other entities of the United Nations and the wider international community, in ensuring security in Kinshasa, the establishment of law and order, the restoration of stability and respect for human rights throughout the country, in particular in Ituri and the Kivus;

(d) The issue of mutual security for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbours, in particular in border areas, and the scope for any possible MONUC contribution to addressing this;

(e) The cooperation of the parties with MONUC and United Nations humanitarian agencies, especially with regard to freedom of movement and unimpeded access;

(f) Other possible areas of MONUC support for the transition.

Burundi

The mission will express the Security Council's support for the second phase of the transition and the new President, the regional mediators and the African peacekeeping mission, as well as the Implementation Monitoring Committee and the Joint Ceasefire Commission.

The mission will assess what could be the relationship between the United Nations and the African peacekeeping mission.

With all the political parties and armed groups, the mission will stress that:

(a) There is no alternative to the path laid out in the Arusha peace process;

(b) Signing peace and ceasefire agreements is not the end state and that there is now a need to work with the new President and the Transitional Government to implement those agreements;

(c) There is a need for the Burundian parties to actively engage in dialogue in order to agree upon the difficult issues of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform.